

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 07410 241245Z
ACTION NSF-02

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TAGS: TGEN OSCI PL
SUBJ: NSF/SFCP -- NSF'S LIST OF PROPOSALS TO BE JOINTLY FINANCED
AND POLISH-FINANCED

REF: STATE 199164

1. WE SUGGESTED RE CONSIDERATION OF NSF'S UNQUALIFIED POSITION SET FORTH IN PARAS. 2 AND 3 OF REF , THAT NSF WILL NOT APPROVE ANY REVISED PROJECT BUDGET THAT REDUCE TRAVEL FOR US AND POLISH SCIENTISTS, AND THAT INSTEAD INCREASES IN OVERALL TRAVEL COSTS SHOULD BE OFFSET BY REDUCING AMOUNTS IN OTHER BUDGET CATEGORIES. OUR UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECTS IS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH RATHER THAN AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. WE APPRECIATE THE VITAL ROLE THAT TRAVEL CAN PLAY IN CARRYING FORWARD THE RESEARCH EFFORT, BUT IT DOES NOT SEEM TO US TO FOLLOW NECESSARILY THAT TRAVEL MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. IT WOULD SEEM FAR PREFERABLY TO AT LEAST LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING THE OVERALL NUMBER OR DURATION OF TRIP. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE PROCESS OF ESTIMATING SUCH NUMBERS AND DURATIONS IN THE COURSE OF PREPARING A PROPOSAL MAY INVOLVE SOMETHING LESS THAN ABSOLUTE PRECISION, SO THAT SOME ADJUSTMENTS UPON REFLECTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

2. WE COULD PRESS FOR TRIMMING OVERHEAD AND ADMINISTRATIVE
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EXPENSES, BUT WE WONDER WHY THE ALLEGATIONS OF EXCESS FAT WERE NOT PURSUED WHEN THE BUDGETS WERE ORIGINALLY REVIEWED BY NSF, AND PARTICULARLY IN PAST YEARS WHEN ALL PROJECTS WERE WHOLLY US-FUNDED. NOW THAT THE SUPPORT IS TO COME FROM THE POLISH CONTRIBUTION, WE ARE IN A FAR LESS FAVORABLE POSITION TO SEEK A DRASTIC CHANGE IN ARRANGEMENTS THAT NSF APPARENTLY HAD ACCEPTED IN THE PAST.

3. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE TRAVEL BY BOTH POLES AND AMERICANS FROM ALL AGENCIES SHOULD DEPEND ON THE SPECIFIC MEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECT, AND THEREFORE URGE NSF TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY IN CONSIDERING THE BUDGET REVISIONS.

4. REGARDING PARA 4 OF REF, THERE APPEARS TO BE A MISCONCEPTION BY SOME USG AGENCIES ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE EMBASSY. IN FACT, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT

MAINTAIN "ALL FINANCIAL RECORDS" IN THE PROJECT-BY-PROJECT SENSE SUGGESTED IN REF. EVEN WITH RESPECT OT TRAVEL BY AMERICANS UTILIZING FUNDS WITHHELD FOR THAT PURPOSE UNDER THE 1974 JOINT FUND ARRANGEMENTS, THE EMBASSY'S B&F OFFICE HAS CHARGED TRAVEL EXPENSES AGAINST THE US AGENCY'S AUTHORIZATION NUMBER, AND HAS NOT MAINTAINED PROJECT RECORDS AS SUCH. THE EMBASSY'S SCIENCE OFFICE HAS MAINTAINED RECORDS OF TRAVEL COSTS IN EACH PROJECT BY AMERICANS USING SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNT FUNDS BUT ONLY SINCE THAT ACCOUNT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EARLY 1977. THE POLISH COORDINATING INSTITUTIONS HAVE MAINTAINED RECORDS OF PROJECT EXPENDITURES OTHER THAN AMERICAN TRAVEL COSTS (FOR WHICH THEY HAVE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY) AND OF COURSE WILL BE HELPFUL IN PROVIDING FIGURES IN UNEXPENDED BALANCES FOR PREPARATION OF THE COVER SHEETS.

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5. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIPT OF THE DETAILED MATERIAL WHICH PARA 1 OF REF STATES WAS MAILED TO PETRUS AT PAN. WE BELIEVE CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATERIAL OF THIS NATURE SHOULD BE POUCHED HENCEFORTH FOR TRANSMITTAL BY THE EMBASSY, WHICH PROVIDED THE BEST ASSURANCE OF DELIVERY IN REASONABLY RAPID TIME AS WELL ASIDF A COORDINATED APPROACH TO GOP AGENCIES.
SCHAUFEELE

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